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(54) Title: BIOLOGICALLY ACTIVE PEPTIDE FRAGMENTS OF OB PROTEIN

(57) Abstract

The present invention provides a protein fragment of the *ob* protein, being an active site of said protein. The active site is suitably provided by the *ob* protein when it is in the form of a four helix bundle structure, particularly that having an up-up down-down topology. In particular, the active site is formed from one or more amino acids selected from one or more of the four helices forming the secondary structure of the *ob* protein, especially a protein fragment consisting of amino acid residues 26 to 39, 74 to 88, 93 to 113 or 142 to 161. The compounds of the invention are considered to be capable of regulating the physiological activity of the *ob* protein and are therefore of potential use in the treatment of nutritional and metabolic disorders, particularly obesity and diabetes in the case of agonists and anorexia and cachexia in the case of antagonists.

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